

**TESTED:** Activity tracking with new-wave fitbands

**WIN**  
ROTARY PILOT  
WATCHES,  
EACH WORTH  
R4 500



TECH » SCIENCE » WHEELS » HOME » OUTSIDE

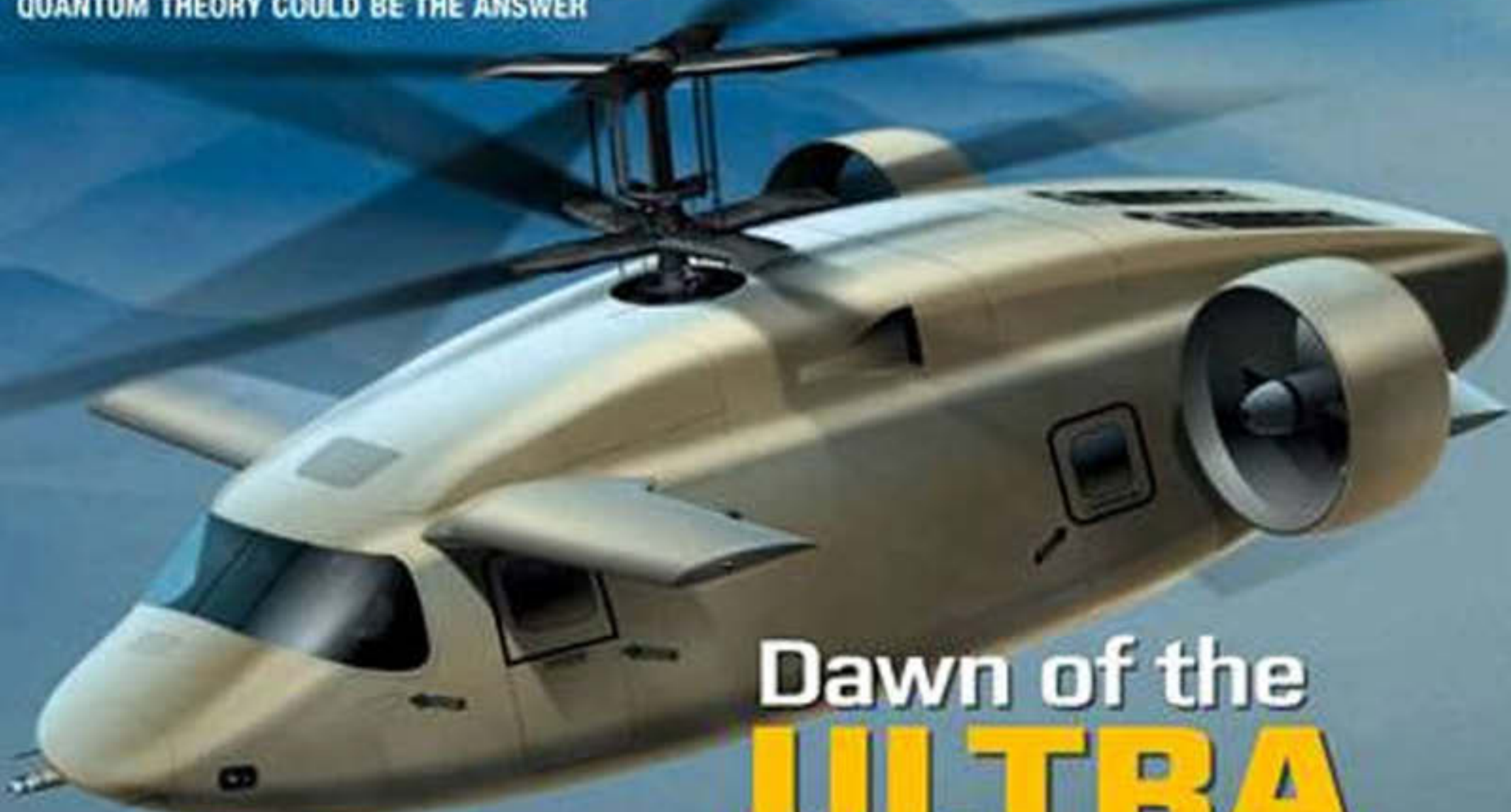
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# Popular Mechanics

JULY 2014  
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## UNTANGLING TIME

QUANTUM THEORY COULD BE THE ANSWER



## Dawn of the **ULTRA CHOPPER**

RADICAL DESIGNS WILL PUSH  
SPEEDS OVER 675 KM/H

## THE NEXT DIGITAL REVOLUTION

WHY FACEBOOK PAID \$2 BILLION  
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### SKILLS

- BUILD A STURDY WORKBENCH
- ODE TO A CIRCULAR SAW
- UPGRADE YOUR TOOLBOX
- 25 THINGS TO TEACH YOUR KIDS



### GREAT GADGETS



Tested

# Tool Review

BY ROY BERENDSOHN

## Power Planes

A power plane is a handy carpentry tool that can save you time and effort. With it you can quickly fit a door that's too wide for its opening, smooth a freshly sawn surface, or straighten crooked lumber. These tools are also great for unusual projects such as planing boat frames or flattening the face of a split log to make a rustic bench. Try doing all that with a hand plane or a circular saw. We gathered six power planes and tested them on  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch-thick red oak edge grain and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-wide red oak face grain. All worked well, and although a professional model took top honors, you can get good results from machines that cost half as much.



**BOSCH 1594K**

RANKING: ★★★★★

PRICE: \$153 AMPERAGE: 6.5  
PLANING WIDTH:  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in.  
MAX. DEPTH OF CUT:  $\frac{3}{32}$  in.  
DISCHARGE PORT: Left and right sides

**LIKES:** Bosch's tool excels on all fronts. It has power to spare and applies it precisely. It planes without vibration and leaves a glass-like finish. We also appreciate its tungsten-carbide knives—they stay sharp even in tough cutting. And in most cases its 10-foot-long cord eliminates the need for an extension.

**DISLIKES:** We'd like some over-mold or texture to improve grip on the handle.

Best Value



**CHICAGO ELECTRIC 95838**

RANKING: ★★★★★

PRICE: \$45 AMPERAGE: 6  
PLANING WIDTH:  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in.  
MAX. DEPTH OF CUT:  $\frac{5}{64}$  in.  
DISCHARGE PORT: Left and right sides

**LIKES:** Planing doesn't get any more cost-effective than this. The CE planes with gusto, leaving a clean surface and minimal tool marks, and its cutting thickness is easily adjusted. Its onboard wrench is a good idea; every power tool should have one.

**DISLIKES:** Lacks a kickstand to keep the cutter off the surface when you set the tool down.